

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 67-74 and 76-101, 103 and 104 are pending in this application. Claims 73, 74 and 81-101, 103 and 104 are withdrawn.

The Applicants submitted an amendment on July 11, 2005 where the status of canceled claims 1-66 was omitted. Subsequently, the Applicants submitted a supplemental amendment on July 13, 2005 where the status of canceled claims was also omitted. Neither amendment should be entered. This amendment is submitted in response to the August 1 Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment and includes the status of canceled claims 1-66 as well as the changes to the claims in both of the July 11 and 13 amendments.

Claims 97 and 98 are amended to delete the inadvertently included characters “64.”

Claims 67, 78, 80, 95, 96-98 and 99 are amended to correct formal matters discovered upon review of the claims.

Claims 67-72 and 76-80 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 5,144,447 (Akimoto et al.) in view of U.S. 4,805,025 (Akiyama et al.). Claim 75 was found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants greatly appreciate the finding of claim 75 to recite patentable subject matter. Claim 67 is amended to include the elements of claim 75 and is in condition for allowance. Claim 78 is also amended to include the elements of claim 75. It is respectfully submitted that claim 78 is also in condition for allowance.

Each of claims 68-72, 76 and 77 are dependent from allowable claim 67 and are accordingly also in condition for allowance. As claims 73 and 74 include all of the elements of allowable claim 67, claims 73 and 74 should be rejoined. Claims 79 and 80 are dependent from claim 78 and are accordingly in condition for allowance. As claims 81-101, 103 and 104 include all of the elements of claim 78, claims 81-101, 103 and 104 should be rejoined.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 67-74, 76-101, 103 and 104 are in condition for allowance, and a favorable decision to that effect is respectfully submitted.

Respectfully submitted,

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